(63)

REASONS

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Humbly Offer'd to the

Honourable Houſe of Commons,

For the BILL *paſt by the Lords, to relieve ſuch unfortunate Merchants and Traders, who have honeſtly deliver'd all their Effects to their Creditors, without any Objection thereto; as directed by the late* Bankrupt Act, *who yet were conſtru'd not to be within the Relief of the ſame.*

I. THAT the Bill is not deſign'd or deſir'd to procure any the leaſt Advantage to any Perſon, ſo much as accus'd of any fraudulent or unfair Diſcovery or Delivery.

II. Every Perſon who hath Honeſtly deliver'd, as above expreſs'd, muſt be thereby reduc'd to a Miſery beyond Expreſſion; their Families muſt be upon the Point of *Starving*, who have deliver'd every Thing that might ſubſiſt them.

III. And as it's natural to pitty Misfortune, it ſeems againſt the Laws of Nature, to compleat the Affliction of Men reduc'd by *War*, *Fire*, *and other Calamities*, by taking away from them, what was left to keep Life and Soul together, to make them Sufferers, for relying on what ſeem'd to them a *Parliamentary Security*. For with all Subminſſion,

IV. If the Queen ſhould think fit to ſend a moſt gracious Pardon to the *Madagaſcar* Pirates, and by any Accident or Careleſſneſs in the drawing it, there ſhould after appear a Defect in it, it would probably be thought more for the Nation's Honour to make up that Defect, than to hang them that came in on the Encouragement, and truſted to it: And ſure we deſerve a much higher Indulgence.

V. The Numbers of People in a Nation, are the Riches of it, the driving ſo many *Clothiers*, *Weavers*, *Artificers*, *and Shipwrights* abroad, who cannot ſtarve, and know how to work, may turn the Ballance of Trade, more to the Advantage of ſome of our Neighbouring Nations, than may appear to every one, or than the Nation may be afterwards able to *remedy*.

VI. The Remnant that go not thus abroad, will be either *Women or Children, who will be a Burthen to the Paroches on which they fall.* Or the more uſeleſs Traders, ſuch as Chapmen, Victuallers, Mercers, Drapers, *&c.* who know not how to get their Bread in another Country, may be drove by Hunger and Want to unwarrantable Practices: For who can anſwer for Neceſſity!

But as the depending Bill will certainly prevent all theſe Conſequences, as it's calculated to help none but honeſt unfortunate People, Sufferers by Decay of Trade, or inevitable Calamities; if any others ſhould get any Advantage by it, (as the Innocent ſhould not ſuffer) even ſuch muſt, on this Occaſion, have probably acted fairly, ſince this Act can help none to whom there is the leaſt Objection of acting otherwiſe. No Law ever puniſhes any, but for the Breach of the Law they are prov'd to break thro'; and a Man is not condemn'd for Treaſon, becauſe he may be a Felon.

Should theſe Objects of Mercy appear ſingly, Men of Rank and Compaſſion in either Houſe of Parliament, would as willingly relieve them, as the Sufferers by Shipwracks, or Fires. And the Relieving ſo many great Families in a Parliamentary Manner, is as much more glorious than a private Charity: As uniting two great Kingdoms, is above the Reconciling two Families.

The Gentlemen who have all along appear'd as our evil Genius, own the Reaſonableneſs of our Relief; and always ſaid, they were only afraid of clogging a Bill, which being now paſt to their Minds; if they appear againſt this Bill, the Vizard is pull'd off, and they prove on themſelves, they deſerve no Regard.

It's hop'd, therefore, all Obſticles are now remov'd, and if theſe unfortunate People have any Enemies, who could ſay nothing againſt their *Diſcovery or Delivery*; yet would, not have them *diſcharg'd:* If they'll ſpeak but plain, and ſay what they *aim at!* what they deſire *to be done to US!* If they would *baniſh US from our Country, for Life*; if they would have US *tranſported, with our Children:* If they will allow US to get our Bread any where, that we may *not ſtarve*, it will be ſo much better than what we *feel or fear:* That if we cannot give them Thanks for the *Advantage*, we ſhall however no longer complain.

REASONS humbly offer'd to the Honourable *House of Commons* for the *Bill* past by the Lords, to relieve such unfortunate Merchants and Traders, who have honestly deliver'd all their Effects to their Creditors, without any Objection thereto; as directed by the late *Bankrupt Act*, who were construed not to be within the Belief of the same.